

**Andrew Jackson to Alfred Balch, February 16, 1835,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO ALFRED BALCH.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> The letter is indorsed as a "rough copy".

February 16, 1835.

*Dear sir,* your letter of the 3rd instant has just been received, and I have but one moment to reply to it.

You have been rightly informed that all but those members which you have named from Tennessee with crockett their tool,<sup>2</sup> with the exception of judge Grundy, Polk and Johnston have in secrete caucus brought out judge White as a candidate for the Presidency in opposition to a national convention, and has thrown him on the opposition for Support. You will find from information every where that the opposition, and particularly the nullifiers, are taking him up, and Mr. Bell<sup>3</sup> and Co. are more intimate with Duff Green and the nullifiers than with the friends of the administration. The late attempt at Richmond shews that the Whiggs will not give up Mr. Clay, and the nullifiers adhere to judge White. The object is not to elect White but divide and conquer and thereby to elect Clay. Mr. Bell knows that White thrown on the opposition cannot be elected, but he is willing to sacrifice White to destroy this administration <sup>23</sup>

<sup>2</sup> David Crockett, M. C. from Tennessee 1827–1831, 1833–1835.

<sup>3</sup> John Bell, M. C. from Tennessee 1827–1841; speaker June 2, 1834–Mar. 3, 1835; senator 1847–1859.

## Library of Congress

and all that it has accomplished. From his course the three last years, and his late duplicity, it is now clear that he has been working against the administration, *secretely*, and that to promote his own interest.

From you I had it, that he denied having any agency in getting up the caucus in Nashville for the judge in opposition to a national convention, that he was for a *national convention*, and would *support van Buren against any other*—at the same time he was writing to Col Johnston to take a Stand against a national convention, all which I wrote you, and requested you to show Mr. Bell when he gets here. he secretely engages in this caucus business and quarrells with Grundy, Polk, and Johnston, because they will not abandon principle, and party, and throw their weight into the scale of the opposition. He and his party has got up a press here Edited by a young man from Duff Greens office.<sup>4</sup> The first number bears date on the seventh instant, was secretely and confidentially issued and sent to George Town to be secretely circulated, it is believed, thro Tennessee, Alabama and mississippi. but one paper of the 7th number has been seen or could be got here. The next number was laid on the tables of the members on the 14, leaving out of the last the appeal made in the first to the opposition to rouse up, and make a united stand against the nomination at the convention at Baltimore. The first is mostly the production and from the pen of Mr. Bell, and the confidential circulation of this paper his usual mode of carrying on intrigues. The friends of the administration from Maine to Louisiana, will go for the candidate presented by the Baltimore convention, and I trust Tennessee will be true to her principles and republican party, and altho all esteem judge White, that all will cling to principle, and not abandon the fruits of an administration, which they have all laboured, and so well sustained, and which I have at the expence of private ease, and comfort, and at the risque of my life so nearly accomplished, nay when victory is grasped, resign all that has been accomplished in six years, and let the United States Bank again be resuscitated and rechartered. Mr. Bell may say what he will but he is a bank man at heart, and would tomorrow vote for its recharter.

## Library of Congress

4 The *Appeal*, published by William A. Rind, jr., from Feb. 7 to Apr. 18, when it was absorbed by the *Sun*, also a White organ.

It is evident that they know that judge White cannot be elected by the people, this is admitted in their confidential paper, and they go into a calculation of the states that will vote for judge White in the House, and give him all the opposition states. This expose will destroy judge White with the republican party every where and if Mr. Bells constituents does not give him trouble in his next elections then I have been allways deceived in the virtue and sterling republican principles and integrity of my neighbours in Davidson and Wilson counties.

Great care ought to be taken in selecting good men and true for your next congress and Legislature, and you ought to have delegates chosen and sent on to the Baltimore convention in May next. the great object is to divide and conquor and bring Mr. Clay into congress, and elect him by the power and influence of the Bank, and a union of all parties hostile to the present administration and Mr Bells party is not the least in hosti[li]ty to it—my rule is to judge the tree by its fruit. . . .

yrs in haste